

2. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim 1, wherein said generally cylindrical side wall structure is compressible from an extended position to a compressed position, wherein the distance between said top portion and said [bottom] base portion is less in said compressed position than in said extended position.

3. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim 1, wherein compression forces acting in a direction generally parallel with said central axis cause said collapsible helical portion to deform, thereby causing the distance between said top portion and said [bottom] base portion to decrease.

20. (Amended) A method of storing a carbonated beverage comprising:

providing a collapsible container having a top portion and a base portion joined by a generally cylindrical side wall structure, said generally cylindrical side wall structure having a central axis, a helical groove and a collapsible helical portion defined between adjacent revolutions of said helical groove, said collapsible helical portion having a surface being generally uniform in radius and extending generally parallel with respect to said central axis;

providing a cup section for engaging and retaining at least a portion of said generally cylindrical side wall structure within said cup section;

filling said collapsible container with a carbonated beverage;

dispensing a portion of said carbonated beverage; and

turning said cup portion relative to said collapsible container to decrease the distance between said top portion and said [bottom] base portion of said container.

22. Canceled.

23. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim [22] 1, wherein said first and second groove portions are portions of a helical groove that travels more than 360° around the generally cylindrical side wall structure.

24. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim [22] 1, wherein said first and second longitudinally spaced groove portions travel around a portion of the generally cylindrical side wall structure at generally the same pitch.

25. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim [22] 1, wherein said first and second groove portions travel upward in a counterclockwise direction as viewed from the top of the container.

26. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim [22] 1, wherein said collapsible helical portion is disposed generally adjacent said [bottom] base portion and at least third,

fourth, fifth and sixth longitudinally spaced groove portions are disposed longitudinally above the collapsible helical portion.

27. (Amended) A longitudinally collapsible container comprising a top portion and a base portion joined by a generally cylindrical side wall structure, said generally cylindrical side wall structure having a longitudinal central axis and a collapsible surface portion, said collapsible surface portion having a collapsible surface of generally uniform radius extending generally parallel with respect to said central axis and being disposed between first and second longitudinally spaced groove portions, wherein said first groove portion travels at least 360° around the generally cylindrical side wall structure and around a portion of the generally cylindrical side wall structure in an upward direction, away from the [bottom] base portion and towards the top portion of the container.

30. Canceled.

36. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim 27, wherein compression forces acting in a direction generally parallel with said central axis cause said collapsible surface portion to deform, thereby causing the distance between said top portion and said [bottom] base portion to decrease.

41. (Amended) A longitudinally collapsible container comprising a top portion and a base portion joined by a generally cylindrical side wall structure, said generally cylindrical side wall structure having a longitudinal central axis and a plurality of longitudinally

spaced collapsible surface portions disposed between the top and [bottom] base portions, one or more said collapsible surface portions having a collapsible surface of generally uniform radius extending generally parallel with respect to said central axis and being defined between adjacent longitudinally spaced groove portions, wherein a first of said groove portions is generally disposed adjacent said top portion and a second of said groove portions is disposed longitudinally below said first groove portion and travels at least 360° around the generally cylindrical side wall structure, both said first and second groove portions traveling around a portion of the generally cylindrical side wall structure in an upward direction away from the [bottom] base portion and towards the top portion of the container, thereby defining one said collapsible surface portions therebetween that also travels about a portion of the generally cylindrical wall structure in an upward direction.

42. Canceled.

46. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim 41, wherein a third groove portion is generally disposed adjacent said [bottom] base portion, is longitudinally spaced from said first and second groove portions and travels around a portion of the generally cylindrical side wall structure in an upward direction away from the [bottom] base portion towards the top portion of the container.

49. (Amended) The collapsible container as in claim 41, wherein compression forces acting in a direction generally parallel with said central axis cause one or more said

collapsible surface portions to deform, thereby causing the distance between said top portion and said [bottom] base portion to decrease.

55. (Amended) A longitudinally collapsible container comprising a top portion and a base portion joined by a generally cylindrical side wall structure, said generally cylindrical side wall structure having a longitudinal central axis and a plurality of longitudinally spaced collapsible surface portions disposed between the top and [bottom] base portions, at least one said collapsible surface portions having a collapsible surface of generally uniform radius extending generally parallel with respect to said central axis and being defined between first and second longitudinally spaced groove portions, said first groove portion being generally disposed adjacent the [bottom] base portion and said second groove portion being disposed longitudinally above said first groove portion, both said first and second groove portions traveling about a portion of the generally cylindrical side wall structure in an upward direction away from the [bottom] base portion and towards the top portion of the container, wherein the second groove portion travels in an upward, counterclockwise direction as viewed from the top of the container, the collapsible container also having a third groove portion disposed longitudinally above said first and second groove portions, the third groove portion traveling at least 360° around said generally cylindrical side wall structure.

59. Canceled.